

Third Grade

During this quarter we have begun a pilot program exclusively with the third grade students by combining our science and technology classes together. The first part of our class time is spent exploring and learning about a science concept. We then take this information and expand our knowledge through technology.

At the beginning of the quarter, the students investigated shadows and light sources through hands-on experiments. During their technology time, the students used Microsoft Word to publish poems they had written about shadows. Students learned how to use the Word Art and Clip Art functions for this finished product. Next, students shifted their focus on space and specifically comets. Using a comet simulator (located here: www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/comets/comet_model_interactive.html) students were able to make observations regarding the characteristics of a comet and then create their own comet.

The following technology standards were introduced and developed during this quarter:

NETS•S (National Educational Technology Standards for Students)

1. Creativity and Innovation

Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology. Students:

- a. apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
- b. create original works as a means of personal or group expression.
- c. use models and simulations to explore complex systems and issues.

4. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making

Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources. Students:

- b. plan and manage activities to develop a solution or complete a project
- c. collect and analyze data to identify solutions and/or make informed decisions.
- d. use multiple processes and diverse perspectives to explore alternative solutions.

5. Digital Citizenship

Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. Students:

- a. advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
- b. exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity.
- c. demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.
- d. exhibit leadership for digital citizenship.

6. Technology Operations and Concepts

Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Students:

- a. understand and use technology systems.
- b. select and use applications effectively and productively.
- d. transfer current knowledge to learning of new technologies.

The students are doing a wonderful job, and I am looking forward to another quarter full of exploration and discovery.